



# Don't Let the Holidays Go to Waste...

## Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle in Carroll County, Maryland this Holiday Season

### No-Waste Gift-Giving

*Here are a few ideas on how to have a wonderful, gift-giving holiday season and still be earth friendly.*

- Not sure what to get someone? How about a gift certificate? That way, you know the gift will be kept.
- Make gifts. Everyone appreciates a home-cooked meal or baked goodies.
- Consider nonmaterial gifts. Tickets to a sporting event, movie, play, or concert are a real treat! Or make a charitable donation in someone's name.
- When you go shopping, bring your own reusable bags.
- Think durable! Consider how long an item will last before you make a purchase. Often, a cheaper item will wear out long before its more durable equivalent.
- Look for items made with recycled content.

### Waste Reduction with Wrapping, Packaging, Greeting Cards

- Creative wrapping paper substitutes include used blueprint paper, the Sunday comics, or even the sports section for a sports enthusiast. Design your own wrapping paper using paper shopping bags: decorate them with paints, crayons, or markers.
- If you send holiday cards, buy recycled-content cards and envelopes. Or make your own cards out of last year's cards and the wrapping paper you saved.
- Make gift tags from last year's holiday cards
- Shipping a gift? Reuse the foam peanuts from another package, or use unbuttered popcorn for packing.

### No-Waste Gift-Wrapping

- Wrap the gift in a drawstring bag and use an inexpensive luggage tag for the gift tag.
- Use a jewelry box for some flea market 'jewels'.
- For a person who is handy, wrap a gift in a tool box.
- Any kitchen gift can be wrapped in a colorful dish towel. Kitchen utensils can pop out of an oven mitt.
- Place home-baked cookies in a reusable tin box, a kitchen container, or a decorated oatmeal box.
- For a reader, wrap a book in a reusable canvas shopping sack.
- Wrap tools for a gardener in a pocket of an apron, planter, or bucket.
- Hang earrings, bracelets, or necklaces right on the Christmas tree, or put them inside or around an open ornament.
- Search the flea market, garage sales, and thrift stores for interesting old boxes that can be used as decorative packages.
- Search the attic for old family photos and mementoes and give them to your favorite relative wrapped in your child's artwork.

**Carroll County  
Recycling  
Operations**



225 N. Center Street • Westminster, MD 21157  
410-386-2035 • [www.recyclecarroll.org](http://www.recyclecarroll.org)

